

DANA ROHRABACHER

48th District, California

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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

Committees:

**FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

Chairman, Subcommittee on  
Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats  
Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific

**SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY**

Subcommittee on Space  
Subcommittee on Energy  
Subcommittee on Environment

August 30, 2018

The Honorable James N. Mattis  
Secretary of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Mattis,

I draw your attention to our military's bureaucratic inertia that has led to a needless loss of life and a tremendous loss of property. I am referring to the vast damage caused in the Western United States, specifically California, by out-of-control wildfires which have plagued the region for the last few months. This loss of life and property could have been dramatically curtailed had our military acted upon an option that was, and is, readily available.

Our inventory of C-130 and C-17 aircraft, with inexpensive and slight interior modifications, could be used as a major firefighting asset that could make a major difference. Instead, these potential incredible firefighting assets sat as California burned. Using these aircraft as valuable firefighting assets would not involve any alteration of the aircraft. This option however has been available and ignored.

I call your attention to the Precision Container Aerial Delivery System (PCADS). I helped win Congressional approval in the 2008 appropriations bill wherein \$2.3 million was provided for the research and testing of this system. It is ten years later, and I am frustrated that it has not been used to protect our citizens, our homes, our businesses, and our wildlands.

The Air National Guard determined that PCADS is operationally effective and is appropriate for C-130 firefighting. The final report on PCADS that found it to be a reliable option was released in January 2018, yet seven months later there has been no action taken to deploy the system. During those seven months, we have suffered 109 large fires which have burned 1.9 million acres, caused 16 fire fatalities, and destroyed 2,356 houses. During this time, our C-130's and C-17's equipped with this system could have had a major impact on these fires. This is utterly unacceptable when we have a proven technology that responds faster and delivers massive quantities of water and fire retardant with GPS directed drops in contrast to the status quo. Furthermore, military transport aircraft can be rapidly and easily reloaded with water or fire retardant as compared to any other system. When the American people discover how bureaucratic intransigence has caused such preventable wildfire damage they will be justifiably outraged.

Today, I am demanding that actions be taken upon receipt of this letter to facilitate the use of this simple and inexpensive technology which will easily turn our inventory of C-130's and C-17's into firefighting water and fire-retardant bombers.

I hope you will take this letter seriously enough in order to prevent even more damage in the state of California and elsewhere.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dana Rohrabacher". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dana Rohrabacher (CA 48)  
Member of Congress

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August 30, 2018

The Honorable Heather Wilson  
Secretary of the Air Force  
1670 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20330

Dear Secretary Wilson,

I draw your attention to our military's bureaucratic inertia that has led to a needless loss of life and a tremendous loss of property. I am referring to the vast damage caused in the Western United States, specifically California, by out-of-control wildfires which have plagued the region for the last few months. This loss of life and property could have been dramatically curtailed had our military acted upon an option that was, and is, readily available.

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Subcommittee on Energy  
Subcommittee on Environment

August 30, 2018

Lt. Gen. L. Scott Rice  
Director  
Air National Guard  
1636 Defense Pentagon Ste 1E169  
Washington, DC 20301

Dear General Rice,

I draw your attention to our military's bureaucratic inertia that has led to a needless loss of life and a tremendous loss of property. I am referring to the vast damage caused in the Western United States, specifically California, by out-of-control wildfires which have plagued the region for the last few months. This loss of life and property could have been dramatically curtailed had our military acted upon an option that was, and is, readily available.

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